UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/52/L.24/Rev.1
4 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 95 (b)

MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation and United Republic of Tanzania*: revised draft resolution

International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/95 and 50/98 of 20 December 1995 and 51/167 of 16 December 1996, as well as relevant international agreements concerning trade, economic growth, development and interrelated issues,

Emphasizing the importance of an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system,

Emphasizing also that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the economic growth of the world economy, including the creation of employment, in particular for the growth and development of the developing countries, and emphasizing further that each country is responsible for its own economic policies for sustainable development,

Noting the agreed conclusions of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Fostering an

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

enabling environment for development: financial flows, including capital flows, investment and trade",[1]

Noting that the mid-term review of the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will be held in 1998,

Noting also that the second Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization will take place at Geneva in May 1998,

I

1. Reaffirms the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of the development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development;

2. Reaffirms its political will and responsibility with respect to implementing the agreed commitments arrived at in the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Midrand, South Africa, in particular the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development",[2] and, in this regard, welcomes the convening of a special high-level mid-term review meeting in 1998, which will contribute to the preparations for the tenth session of the Conference, to be held in Thailand in the year 2000;

3. Welcomes the efforts by the Secretary-General of the Conference to build a lasting partnership for development with non-governmental actors, including through the "Partners for Development" initiative, to be held at Lyon, France, in 1998;

4. Notes the reports and the agreed conclusions of the Trade and Development Board on its fifteenth executive session[3] and its forty-fourth session,[4] and notes the important contribution that the Trade and Development Report, 1997, the World Investment Report and the Least Developed Countries: 1997 Report make to the work of the Board;

5. Also notes that the Trade and Development Board recommended that the General Assembly change the title of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices to "Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy", and to convene a fourth United Nations Conference on the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices as well as a diplomatic conference to consider and adopt a convention on arrest of ships, endorses the above change of

---

[1] A/52/3, chap. II, para. 5.

[2] See A/51/308.

[3] A/52/15 (Part I).

[4] A/52/15 (Part II).

title, and stresses that the above two conferences, as agreed by the Board, should be absorbed within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1998-1999;

6. Supports the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to implement fully the far-reaching reforms as embodied in the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

7. Takes notes of the fact that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is making increasing use of information technology to further enhance its effectiveness, and urges the Conference to assist developing countries to fully benefit from these new technologies;

8. Also takes note of the increasing importance and application of electronic commerce on international trade, and urges the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in cooperation with other relevant parts of the United Nations system, to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and in this regard, also notes the needs of the economies in transition;

9. Recognizes that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, having a comparative advantage in tackling trade-related development issues, should continue to facilitate the integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in a complementary manner with the World Trade Organization, and to promote development through trade and investment in cooperation and coordination with the International Trade Centre, relevant institutions of the United Nations system and other international organizations;

10. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue, on the basis of the outcome of its ninth session, to identify and analyse the implications for development of issues relevant to investment, taking into account the interests of developing countries and bearing in mind the work undertaken by other organizations;

11. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue, inter alia, to follow developments in the international trading system, in particular their implications for developing countries, and to identify new opportunities arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, and to assist developing countries to participate effectively in multilateral trade negotiations;

II

12. Welcomes the outcome of the first Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Singapore in December 1996, and its adoption of the Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries;

13. Welcomes the announcements by some developed and developing countries, at the High-level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries, of new or additional market access measures for the least developed

countries, and recommends that a full report on the outcome and follow-up to the Meeting be submitted to the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in May 1998;

14. Recognizes the importance of open regional economic integration in the creation of new opportunities for expanding trade and investment and stresses the importance of these initiatives being in conformity with World Trade Organization rules, where applicable;

15. Stresses that in the context of globalization and liberalization, there is need for the full integration of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and of economies in transition, into the world economy, through, inter alia, improved market access for their exports, in accordance with the multilateral trading agreements;

16. Stresses also in this context the need for various measures by the international community, including increased trade-related technical assistance and human and institutional capacity-building for strengthening the supply capacity of exportable goods and services of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, for their full integration into the world economy;

17. Welcomes, in this regard, the recognition that the movement in the direction of greater openness for developing economies should be an orderly process backed by effective policies at the international as well as the national level; and that these policies should entail a phased approach to integration, taking into account the circumstances of individual countries;[5]

18. Reiterates the importance of trade liberalization in developed and developing countries and the need to continue liberalization, particularly in areas of interest to developing countries, through, inter alia, a substantial reduction of tariff and other barriers, and also reiterates the need for the elimination of discriminatory and protectionist practices in international trade relations, which will have the effect of improving access for the exports of developing countries, enhancing the competitiveness of their domestic industries and facilitating structural adjustment among developed economies;

19. Stresses that all members of the World Trade Organization should implement their commitments in respect of the Uruguay Round agreements in a full, timely, faithful and continuous manner and that all provisions of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations[6] should be applied effectively, taking into account specific interests of developing countries, so as to maximize economic growth and the developmental benefits for all, and in this respect reiterates the need for the

---

[5] A/52/15 (Part II), chap. I, sect. B, agreed conclusions 440 (XLIV), para. 8.

[6] See Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

full implementation of special and preferential treatment for developing countries in accordance with the Uruguay Round agreements;

20. Emphasizes the importance of the strengthening of, and the attaining of greater universality by, the international trading system and of accelerating the process directed towards accession to the World Trade Organization of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and emphasizes the necessity for World Trade Organization member Governments and relevant international organizations to assist non-members of the World Trade Organization so as to facilitate their efforts with respect to accession in an expeditious and transparent manner on the basis of World Trade Organization rights and obligations and for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide technical assistance, within its mandate, thereby contributing to their rapid and full integration into the multilateral trading system;

21. Emphasizes that the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization is a key element with regard to the integrity and credibility of the multilateral trading system and the full realization of the benefits anticipated from the conclusion of the Uruguay Round;

22. Deplores any attempt to bypass or undermine multilaterally agreed procedures on the conduct of international trade by resorting to unilateral actions over and above those agreed in the Uruguay Round, and affirms that environmental and social concerns should not be used for protectionist purposes;

III

23. Emphasizes the need for a balanced and integrated approach to environment, trade and development issues, and recognizes that Governments should have as their objective to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive so as to achieve sustainable development and that, in doing so, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact are not used for protectionist purposes;

24. Encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its work on trade, environment and development, in particular, its special role in promoting the integration of trade, environment and development[7] by examining trade and environment issues from a development perspective in cooperation with relevant international organizations including the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Trade Organization, as task manager for the Commission on Sustainable Development;

IV

25. Reaffirms the need to give priority to the problems facing the least developed countries, and reaffirms in particular that actions, as appropriate, should be taken to assist the least developed countries to maximize the

[7] See resolution 50/95, para. 27.

potential opportunities and minimize possible difficulties arising from the Uruguay Round agreements;

26. Urges Governments and concerned international organizations to implement fully and expeditiously the Ministerial Declaration on Measures in Favour of the Least Developed Countries,[6] and to apply effectively the Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform of the Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries,[6] as well as the recommendations adopted at the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and at the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as they relate to trade and trade-related issues of the least developed countries;

27. Requests Governments, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take concrete measures to implement fully and as a matter of urgency the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including the measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review, especially those related to trade and development;

28. Welcomes the adoption of an integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance at the World Trade Organization High-level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries, held in Geneva in October 1997, and invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to further enhance effectiveness and efficiency of its trade-related technical assistance activities for the least developed countries in collaboration with the World Trade Organization, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund;

29. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to improve collaboration between the Conference's country-level programmes for the least developed countries and the overall macroeconomic and sectoral policy dialogue in respect of those countries at the World Bank Consultative Group and United Nations Development Programme round tables bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 50/120 of 20 December 1995;

30. Stresses the need to give special attention, within the context of international cooperation on trade and development issues, to the implementation of the many international development commitments geared to meeting the special development needs and problems of small island developing States and of landlocked developing States, as well as to recognize that developing countries that provide transit services need adequate support in maintaining and improving their transit infrastructure;

31. Invites preference-giving countries to continue to improve and renew their generalized system of preferences schemes in keeping with the post-Uruguay Round trading system and with the objective of integrating developing countries, especially the least developed countries, into the international trading system, and stresses that ways and means should be found to ensure more effective

utilization of the generalized system of preferences schemes, particularly by the least developed countries;

32. Notes the concern among the beneficiaries that the enlargement of the scope of the generalized system of preferences, by linking eligibility to non-trade considerations, may detract value from its original principles, namely, non-discrimination, universality, burden-sharing and non-reciprocity;

33. Stresses the need for increased and more effective participation by developing countries in rule-making and standard-setting activities in the context of the international trading system;

34. Welcomes the successful outcome of the South-South Conference on Trade, Investments and Finance, held at San José, Costa Rica, in January 1997, and stresses the need to ensure, by all concerned, with the support of the international community, effective follow-up of its Declaration and Programme of Action, which recognized, inter alia, the importance of international trade as an unprecedented engine of growth for developing countries, the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization, the need for complete integration of the developing countries into the world economy and the international trading system, and the need to address the continued marginalization of the least developed countries in the world economy;

35. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on recommendations for effective follow-up to the relevant sections of the agreed conclusions of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council;[1]

36. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, including developments in the multilateral trading system.